

**TOWN OF WELLESLEY
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION**

MEETING MINUTES

October 2, 2014, 7:30 PM

NRC Office, Lower Level, Town Hall

Attending: Heidi Gross, Chair, Stephen Murphy, Vice Chair, Joan Gaughan, Lise Olney, Raina McManus, Janet Hartke Bowser, NRC Director.

Guests: Kent Warren, DPW Parks Division, David Murphy, BOS Liaison to the NRC (arriving at 8:30 pm) Lucy Kapples, Advisory Committee Liaison to the NRC (arriving at 9:30 pm), Paul Simonella, 28 Allen Road, Mr. and Mrs. Miao, 7 Midland Road, Lisa Mansour-Bee, 11 Heckle Street, Michael Caravello, 156 Benvenue Street, Frank and Susan Torrentino, 14 Ingraham Road.

Public Voice

No one at the meeting spoke at Public Voice.

NRC Public Shade Tree Removal Hearing

Documents reviewed for this discussion:

- Tree Hearing Project Description outlining public shade trees proposed for removal and the rationale for all removals provided by the DPW Parks Division, dated August 20, 2013.

Ms. Bowser confirmed that tree hearing removal notices were posted on all trees proposed for removal in accordance with State Law and that the required legal ads were published. **After discussion, a motion was made and seconded and the NRC voted 5-0 to reconfirm its policy that all public shade trees shall be planted by the DPW as far back from the street as possible in order to provide the healthiest environment possible for the trees and that no new trees will be planted in the tree lawn area.** The NRC briefly discussed options for increasing public awareness regarding protection of street trees including reaching out to the Wellesley Chamber of Commerce and the various merchants groups.

40" Catalpa at 139 Abbott Road

DPW Arborist Kent Warren reported that this tree is completely hollow and has had a lot of die-back in recent years. There is a very poor root structure, partly due to its position in the middle of the sidewalk. The NRC's Tree Subcommittee was in agreement on the removal of this tree. **After a motion was made and seconded, the NRC voted 5-0 to approve the removal of the tree and to plant a replacement if an appropriate location can be determined.**

Large Sugar Maple at 25 Allen Road

DPW Arborist Kent Warren reported that this tree has some limb loss and decay in the main trunk, but does not appear to be in serious condition at this time. The NRC's Tree Subcommittee recommended that this tree not be removed and that it be placed on the "Watch List" and pruned. Mr. Paul Simella from 28 Allen Road stated that he would like the tree to remain in place. The NRC's Tree Subcommittee was in agreement on the removal of this tree. **After a motion was made and seconded, the NRC voted 5-0 to place this tree on the watch list and that the DPW prune it.**

6" Canadian Hemlock, 10" Norway Spruce and 12" Norway Spruce at 156 Benvenue Street

DPW Arborist Kent Warren reported that the owner of this property is requesting the removal of these three public shade trees in order to install a new curb cut so that the property's new entrance drive can be located on Dewing Way, which has less traffic and is safer than Benvenue Street. The owner/developer of the property, Mr. Caraviello, submitted a replanting plan that proposes to install 3 Western Red Cedars to compensate for the three public shade tree removals. Mr. Warren and the NRC's Tree Subcommittee were in agreement on the removal of these trees and the replanting plan. **After a motion was made and seconded, the NRC voted 5-0 to approve the removal of the three trees and to plant three replacement trees as proposed by the property owner.**

25" Red Oak at 3 Boulder Road

DPW Arborist Kent Warren reported that this tree has lost the central leader and some other major limbs and there is decay in the remaining trunk. The NRC's Tree Subcommittee was in agreement on the removal of this tree. **After a motion was made and seconded, the NRC voted 5-0 to approve the removal of the tree and to plant a replacement if an appropriate location can be determined.**

20" & 19" Norway Maples at Central Street@ Church Park

DPW Arborist Kent Warren reported that these trees have had some limb loss recently. There is decay in the main trunks and both trees have poor root structure. Removal will allow for improvements to that area of the park. The NRC Tree Subcommittee recommended that the NRC deny removal of the trees and request that the DPW develop a replanting design plan for this area before considering the removal of the trees. **After a motion was made and seconded, the NRC voted 5-0 to deny removal of the trees and requested that the DPW develop a replanting design plan for this area prior to removal of the trees. After a motion was made and seconded, the NRC voted 5-0 to approve the removal of the concrete bus stop base at this location.**

Small American Elm at 2 Clock Tower Drive

DPW Arborist Kent Warren reported that an abutting resident is requesting removal of this tree located in front of a concrete wall next to this property and within the Town Right-of-Way Easement. Presently this tree is in good condition and does not appear to be impacting the concrete retaining wall. Ms. Bowser stated that an email, previously distributed to the NRC, had been received from Virginia Mills of 2 Clock Tower Drive regarding this tree. Ms. Mills requested that the tree be removed because she believes that the tree will grow too large for its location and will eventually interfere with an abutter's fence and the existing retaining wall. The NRC and Mr. Warren discussed these concerns and concluded that the tree is in good condition and should not be removed. Ms. Gross noted during a site visit at this location that there are possible encroachment issues on the Selectmen's right of way and possible unpermitted cutting of shrubbery. The NRC's Tree Subcommittee and Mr. Warren were in agreement to deny the removal of this tree until the DPW is able to assess and address the encroachment and cutting issues. **After a motion was made and seconded, the NRC voted 5-0 to deny the removal of the tree until the encroachment/cutting issues are addressed.**

22" Sugar Maple located at Clock Tower Park

DPW Arborist Kent Warren reported that there is a large open cavity in the main trunk and that removal of this tree will allow for neighboring trees to mature. The NRC's Tree Subcommittee recommended that

the NRC deny removal of this tree and that it be pruned and placed on the Watch List since the removal of it will result in a significant gap in the maple alley at this location. **After a motion was made and seconded, the NRC voted 5-0 to deny the removal of the tree and to prune it and place it on the Watch List.**

20" Sugar Maple at 47 Croton Street

DPW Arborist Kent Warren reported that this tree is in severe decline and that there is a large amount of decay in the main trunk and the root system is very poor. The NRC's Tree Subcommittee were in agreement on the removal of this tree. **After a motion was made and seconded, the NRC voted 5-0 to approve the removal of the tree and to plant a replacement if an appropriate location can be determined.**

17" Ash Tree located next to pole #19 at Croton Street and Hillside Road

DPW Arborist Kent Warren reported that this tree has very poor branch structure due to its location directly under the power lines and that it sits in the middle of the sidewalk layout. The NRC's Tree Subcommittee was in agreement on the removal of this tree. **After a motion was made and seconded, the NRC voted 5-0 to approve the removal of the tree and to plant a replacement if an appropriate location can be determined.**

12" Norway Maple located in the tree lawn area of 9 Donizetti Street

DPW Arborist Kent Warren reported that this tree is located in the utility strip and is growing up into the canopy of a large private tree and that it may not survive all the construction which is currently going on at the site. The NRC's Tree Subcommittee was in agreement on the removal of this tree. **After a motion was made and seconded, the NRC voted 5-0 to approve the removal of the tree and to plant a replacement if an appropriate location can be determined.**

Norway Maple and Sugar Maple at 4 Duxbury Road

DPW Arborist Kent Warren reported that both of these trees are in severe decline. Both have severely compromised root systems and major limb loss in the canopy. The NRC's Tree Subcommittee was in agreement on the removal of this tree. **After a motion was made and seconded, the NRC voted 5-0 to approve the removal of the tree and to plant a replacement if an appropriate location can be determined.**

25" Red Oak at #33 Earle Road

DPW Arborist Kent Warren reported that this tree has had much limb failure in the past and that there is a large portion of the tree that extends out over the house. This tree has some signs of stress cracks in the main leader, and there is a poor root flare as well as poor root agreement on the removal of this tree. **After a motion was made and seconded, the NRC voted 5-0 to approve the removal of the tree and to plant a replacement if an appropriate location can be determined.**

35" Red Maple located on the Maugus side of 30 Eaton Court

DPW Arborist Kent Warren reported that this tree has a large column of decay in the main trunk extending from the root flare up 6'. The canopy of this tree is off balance and is heavily weighted towards the overhead power lines. The Park tree crew has tried to do some weight reduction to get through the Summer storm season, but this tree will probably not remain standing much longer. The NRC's Tree Subcommittee was in agreement on the removal of this tree. **After a motion was made and seconded, the NRC voted 5-0 to approve the removal of the tree and to plant a replacement if an appropriate location can be determined.**

59" Silver Maple at 8 Fairbanks Avenue

DPW Arborist Kent Warren reported that there is severe decay in the main leaders of this tree which means there is no structural integrity in the canopy of this tree. Mr. Warren stated that the DPW has

visited this tree several times in the past and it is obvious now that the rate of decline has greatly increased. The NRC's Tree Subcommittee was in agreement on the removal of this tree. **After a motion was made and seconded, the NRC voted 5-0 to approve the removal of the tree and to plant a replacement if an appropriate location can be determined.**

20" Norway Maple at 54 Fiske Road

DPW Arborist Kent Warren reported that the whole center of this tree failed and was removed. Now, only one lateral limb remains and the root system is greatly compromised. The top is missing and needs removal. The NRC's Tree Subcommittee was in agreement on the removal of this tree. **After a motion was made and seconded, the NRC voted 5-0 to approve the removal of the tree and to plant a replacement if an appropriate location can be determined.**

25" Norway Maple at 11 Heckle Street

DPW Arborist Kent Warren reported that this tree is in poor condition. The union area of the largest leader shows significant signs of rot. The entire tree's weight is towards the house and property. The residents say the tree has been infested with carpenter ants. Top limbs are dying out. Residents are strongly recommending removal of this tree, but they are agreeable to have the Town plant a new tree on their property. The NRC's Tree Subcommittee was in agreement on the removal of this tree. **After a motion was made and seconded, the NRC voted 5-0 to approve the removal of the tree and to plant a replacement if an appropriate location can be determined.**

24" Red Pine opposite 25 Hundreds Road

DPW Arborist Kent Warren reported that this tree is struggling to survive in this space and that there are many dead limbs. The trunk has been damaged by vehicles and it impedes pedestrian traffic. Ms. Bowser stated that an email opposing the removal of this tree was received from Sarah Pedersen of 116 Glen Road, which had been previously distributed to all NRC Members. Ms. Pedersen opposed the removal of this tree because she believes that it helps provide a visual and sound buffer between the railroad station and tracks and the abutters. The NRC and Mr. Warren discussed these concerns and concluded that the tree is in poor condition and should be removed. The NRC's Tree Subcommittee was in agreement on the removal of this tree. **After a motion was made and seconded, the NRC voted 5-0 to approve the removal of the tree and to plant a replacement if an appropriate location can be determined.**

16" Elm opposite 25 Hundreds Road

DPW Arborist Kent Warren reported that this tree is in fair condition. It does have some signs of vehicular damage and a struggling root system. Ms. Bowser stated that an email opposing the removal of this tree was received from Sarah Pedersen of 116 Glen Road, which had been previously distributed to all NRC Members. Ms. Pedersen opposed the removal of this tree because she believes that it helps provide a visual and sound buffer between the railroad station and tracks and the abutters. The NRC and Mr. Warren discussed these concerns and concluded that the tree is in poor condition and should be removed. The NRC's Tree Subcommittee was in agreement on the removal of this tree. **After a motion was made and seconded, the NRC voted 5-0 to approve the removal of the tree and to plant a replacement if an appropriate location can be determined.**

34" Red Oak opposite 25 Hundreds Road

DPW Arborist Kent Warren reported that the root system of this tree is greatly compromised and there have been large dead limbs removed. This tree is located in the middle of the sidewalk. Ms. Bowser stated that an email opposing the removal of this tree was received from Sarah Pedersen of 116 Glen Road, which had been previously distributed to all NRC Members. Ms. Pedersen opposed the removal of this tree because she believes that it helps provide a visual and sound buffer between the railroad station and tracks and the abutters. The NRC and Mr. Warren discussed these concerns and concluded that the tree is in poor condition and should be removed. The NRC's Tree Subcommittee was in agreement on the

removal of this tree. **After a motion was made and seconded, the NRC voted 5-0 to approve the removal of the tree and to plant a replacement if an appropriate location can be determined.**

28" Two-Trunk Ash Tree Opposite 15 Ingraham Road

DPW Arborist Kent Warren reported that this tree is in decline and showing numerous dead limbs as well as impacting a private stone wall abutting this property. The owners of 14 Ingraham Road, Frank and Susan Torentino, attended the meeting and stated that they are in support of the removal of this tree. The NRC's Tree Subcommittee was in agreement on the removal of this tree. **After a motion was made and seconded, the NRC voted 5-0 to approve the removal of the tree and to plant a replacement if an appropriate location can be determined.**

50" Norway Maple Opposite 15 Ingraham Road

DPW Arborist Kent Warren reported that this is a large clump of two different trees growing together and impacting a private stone wall. The owners of 14 Ingraham Road, Frank and Susan Torentino, attended the meeting and stated that they are in support of the removal of this tree. The NRC's Tree Subcommittee was in agreement on the removal of this tree. **After a motion was made and seconded, the NRC voted 5-0 to approve the removal of the tree and to plant a replacement if an appropriate location can be determined.**

28" 2-Trunk Tree of Heaven Opposite 15 Ingraham Road

DPW Arborist Kent Warren reported that this is an invasive tree that is impacting a private stone wall. The base of the stone wall abuts this property. The owners of 14 Ingraham Road, Frank and Susan Torentino, attended the meeting and stated that they are in support of the removal of this tree. The NRC's Tree Subcommittee was in agreement on the removal of this tree. **After a motion was made and seconded, the NRC voted 5-0 to approve the removal of the tree and to plant a replacement if an appropriate location can be determined.**

20" Norway Maple at #5 Juniper Road

DPW Arborist Kent Warren reported that this tree has a lot of decay in one leader which is leaning out over private property. This tree has poor root structure and has been in decline in recent years. There is a large area of decay in the main trunk. The NRC's Tree Subcommittee was in agreement on the removal of this tree. **After a motion was made and seconded, the NRC voted 5-0 to approve the removal of the tree and to plant a replacement if an appropriate location can be determined.**

25" White Pine at #5 Kirkland Circle

DPW Arborist Kent Warren reported that this tree is in direct contact with the electric lines and is being severely impacted by the new home construction. The NRC's Tree Subcommittee was in agreement on the removal of this tree. **After a motion was made and seconded, the NRC voted 5-0 to approve the removal of the tree and to plant a replacement if an appropriate location can be determined.**

28" Sugar Maple at #7 Midland Road

DPW Arborist Kent Warren reported that this tree has been in decline for several years. At this time, there are very few healthy branches left. There is decay in the main trunk, and the root system is failing. Mr. & Mrs. Miao, abutters to this tree, attended the meeting and would like to request a tree placement, and do not oppose removal. The NRC's Tree Subcommittee was in agreement on the removal of this tree. **After a motion was made and seconded, the NRC voted 5-0 to approve the removal of the tree and to plant a replacement if an appropriate location can be determined.**

32" Ash at #41 Park Avenue

DPW Arborist Kent Warren reported that this tree has been in severe decline and has only about 30% of the canopy remaining. The NRC's Tree Subcommittee was in agreement on the removal of this tree. **After a motion was made and seconded, the NRC voted 5-0 to approve the removal of the tree and to plant a replacement if an appropriate location can be determined.**

27" Red Maple at #2 Pleasant Street

DPW Arborist Kent Warren reported that the entire top of this tree has died and all that is left is the badly rotted trunk with two branches on it that have decay in them. The NRC's Tree Subcommittee was in agreement on the removal of this tree. **After a motion was made and seconded, the NRC voted 5-0 to approve the removal of the tree and to plant a replacement if an appropriate location can be determined.**

16" Norway Maple at #78 Prospect Street

DPW Arborist Kent Warren reported that this tree is in fair condition, but the majority of the tree is weighted and leaning towards house. The main trunk has a small cavity and is showing signs of decay. The resident has requested removal, which would also benefit the neighbor at 80 Prospect St. that is looking to install solar panels on their roof. The NRC's Tree Subcommittee was in agreement that this tree removal should be denied. **After a motion was made and seconded, the NRC voted 5-0 to deny the removal of the tree and to have it pruned and placed on the watch list.**

21" Norway Maple at #96 Seaver Street

DPW Arborist Kent Warren reported that this tree has major root zone damage, including a large open cavity directly underneath the main trunk. In addition, the canopy has been dying back and has been significantly reduced. The NRC's Tree Subcommittee was in agreement on the removal of this tree. **After a motion was made and seconded, the NRC voted 5-0 to approve the removal of the tree and to plant a replacement if an appropriate location can be determined.**

9" Kousa Dogwood at Town Hall

DPW Arborist Kent Warren reported that this tree has a large area of decay at the base of the main trunk, and the canopy has suffered a 90% leaf loss. The NRC's Tree Subcommittee was in agreement on the removal of this tree. **After a motion was made and seconded, the NRC voted 5-0 to approve the removal of the tree and to plant a replacement if an appropriate location can be determined.**

White Fir at Town Hall Park

DPW Arborist Kent Warren reported that this tree is in severe decline and will not recover. Also, removal of this tree will allow surrounding trees to thrive. The NRC's Tree Subcommittee was in agreement on the removal of this tree. **After a motion was made and seconded, the NRC voted 5-0 to approve the removal of the tree and to plant a replacement if an appropriate location can be determined.**

11" White Fir at Ware Park (next to Hills Library)

DPW Arborist Kent Warren reported that this tree has failed quickly, over 50% of the branches have died, and there is poor branch union where the large lower branch connects to the trunk. The NRC's Tree Subcommittee was in agreement on the removal of this tree. **After a motion was made and seconded, the NRC voted 5-0 to approve the removal of the tree and to plant a replacement if an appropriate location can be determined.**

28" Norway Maple at #407 Weston Road

DPW Arborist Kent Warren reported that the only leader that is remaining on this tree is hollow and could fall on the abutter's driveway. The tree was pruned and weight was reduced on 03/21/14. Resident would like to see the tree removed. There is severe decay in the trunk, and there has been a lot of branch failure leaving only a small canopy which is not doing well. The NRC's Tree Subcommittee was in agreement on the removal of this tree. **After a motion was made and seconded, the NRC voted 5-0 to approve the removal of the tree and to plant a replacement if an appropriate location can be determined.**

5" American Elm at #44 Whiting Road

DPW Arborist Kent Warren reported that the Town planted this tree several years ago, and has a defective union between the secondary and main leader. The sister elm planted next to this tree has already split in the same location and was removed as a hazard tree on 07/25/14. Mr. Warren proposed to replant both these trees in the spring of 2015 with a new species of tree. The NRC's Tree Subcommittee was in agreement on the removal of this tree. **After a motion was made and seconded, the NRC voted 5-0 to approve the removal of the tree and to plant a replacement if an appropriate location can be determined.**

34" Sugar Maple at #29 Whiting Road

DPW Arborist Kent Warren reported that the tree is in severe decline with major rot in trunk and over 50% of original canopy is gone. This tree poses hazard to property's driveway and town roadway. The NRC's Tree Subcommittee was in agreement on the removal of this tree. **After a motion was made and seconded, the NRC voted 5-0 to approve the removal of the tree and to plant a replacement if an appropriate location can be determined.**

Discussion Re: Public Shade Tree Removal Violation at 239 Washington Street

The NRC discussed with Mr. Warren the tree trimming activity carried out by a construction company in front of 239 Washington Street on August 8, 2014 and determined that it was a violation of Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 87, section 3. This violation occurred when the company failed to seek permission from the Town to prune a public Honey Locust Tree located in front of the noted address. In addition, this tree trimming was conducted by employees that were not properly trained in tree pruning. This information was documented in a letter to the company from Michael Quinn, Deputy Tree Warden and Asst. Superintendent of Parks and Trees dated August 11, 2014. Pursuant to the NRC's authority as Tree Warden under M.G.L. Chapter 87, and at the suggestion of Mr. Quinn and Mr. Warren, the Commission discussed and decided to impose a fine of \$250 for this violation along with a \$100 maintenance fee for the corrective pruning for the Town. As noted in Mr. Quinn's letter of August 11, 2014, the DPW will be inspecting the public shade trees in front of this property and making any necessary pruning cuts away from your building. Mr. Quinn also noted that the DPW will also try to open up visibility for store signs in this area, but they cannot make any cuts that will be harmful to the trees. **After a motion was made and seconded, the NRC voted 5-0 to impose a fine of \$250 for this violation along with a \$100 maintenance fee for the corrective pruning for the Town.** Ms. Bowser will send a letter to the company regarding the fine and setting a deadline for submitting a check to the Town.

Discussion Re: Public Shade Tree Violation at 5 Kirkland Circle

The NRC discussed with Mr. Warren the construction activity at 5 Kirkland Circle and determined that the construction company is in violation of the Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 87, whereby the construction activity damaged the root zone of a 22" d.b.h. Black Locust Public Shade Tree in the front of the property. The construction activity around these trees has caused significant soil disturbance and compaction that is going to affect the survival of this tree and has destroyed over 50% of the root zone and drastically compromised the tree rooting structure, creating a hazard to the public way. This damage

will also cause significant die back and ultimate death of this tree in the next few years. This information was documented in a letter to the company from Michael Quinn, Deputy Tree Warden, dated August 6, 2014. Pursuant to the NRC's authority as Tree Warden under M.G.L. Chapter 87, the NRC discussed the imposition of a fine of \$500 for the violation related to the 22" Black Locust Tree along with \$2,200 for tree replacement costs (\$100 per caliper inch times 22 inches) and \$850 for the cost of removing the tree and grinding the stump for a total of \$3,550 as suggested by Mr. Warren. **After a motion was made and seconded, the Commission voted 5-0 to impose a fine of \$500 for the violation related to damage of the 22" Black Locust Tree along with \$2,200 for tree replacement costs (\$100 per caliper inch times 22 inches) and \$850 for the cost of removing the tree and grinding the stump for a total of \$3,550.** Ms. Bowser will send out a letter to the company regarding the fine and setting a deadline for submitting a check to the Town.

Discussion Re: Public Shade Tree Damage/Violations at 8 Church Street

The NRC discussed with Mr. Warren the recent scaffolding construction activity at 8 Church Street and determined that the construction company is in violation of the Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 87, whereby the construction activity caused irreversible damage to two (2) newly planted 2" Gingko Public Shade Trees in front of this property. This information was documented in a letter to the company from Michael Quinn, Deputy Tree Warden, dated July 23, 2014. Pursuant to the NRC's authority as Tree Warden under M.G.L. Chapter 87, the NRC discussed with Mr. Warren requiring the company to pay a total of \$800 for replacing these trees with two new trees costs (\$200 per caliper inch times a total of 4 inches). Mr. Warren stated that the Park and Tree Division would plant the new ones and relocate the old ones to a Parkland location where they may get a chance to mature. **After a motion was made and seconded, the Commission voted 5-0 to charge the company \$800 for tree replacement costs (\$200 per caliper inch times 4 inches) and requested that the Park and Tree Division plant two new trees at this location and relocate the old ones to an appropriate Parkland location.** Ms. Bowser will send out a letter to the company regarding the fine and setting a deadline for submitting a check to the Town.

Annual NRC Board Reorganization

Ms. Olney recommended that the NRC retain the current board leadership in order to provide continuity for the next year. **After a motion made and seconded, it was unanimously voted to elect Heidi Gross as Chairman of the Natural Resources Commission effective as of October 2, 2014 and running through the NRC's first meeting in September 2015.**

After a motion made and seconded, it was unanimously voted to elect Stephen Murphy as Vice-Chairman of the Natural Resources Commission effective as of October 2, 2014 and running through the NRC's first meeting in September 2015.

New Business/Continuing Business/Liaison Reports

Update on North 40 Steering Committee

Ms. Gross and Ms. McManus updated the NRC on the status of the committee's work and indicated that the Town has submitted its bid to Wellesley College to acquire the land, which will be discussed at the Fall Special Town Meeting scheduled for Oct. 26th and 27th. Ms. Gross and Ms. MacManus will keep the NRC updated on the status of the committee's work.

Update on Initiative to Reduce Single Use Plastics/NRC Support for State Ballot Question 2: Bottle Bill

Ms. Olney stated that she and Ms. McManus will continue to gather information from other Towns that have or are considering single use plastic bans and will keep the NRC updated on their progress. Ms. Olney requested that the NRC take a formal position in support of State Ballot Question 2, which will expand the existing Bottle Bill to include a five cent deposit on water bottles, iced tea bottles and sports

drinks bottles that are currently not covered. **After a motion was made and seconded, the NRC voted 5-0 in support of State Ballot Question 2 regarding expanding the Bottle Bill.**

Discussion Re: Formation of a NRC Art in the Parks Subcommittee

The NRC continued its discussion regarding the formation of an Art in the Parks Subcommittee to develop a policy and guidelines for art installations in the NRC's parklands. **After a motion was made and seconded, the NRC voted 5-0 to form an Art in the Parks Subcommittee.** Ms. Olney and Ms. Gaughan volunteered to serve on the Subcommittee.

Discussion Re: Recognition of Trails Committee Member Bob White

Ms. Olney provided an update on the effort to recognize Bob White's many years of service and accomplishments on the NRC's Trails Committee and the NRC was in agreement with Ms. Olney's suggestion to purchase a pick axe for Mr. White.

Director's Report

NRC Review/Approval of Proposed Encroachment Correction and Remediation Plan Work on Town of Wellesley Land in Needham Adjacent to 62 Brookside Rd.

As previously discussed, the Needham Conservation Commission recently confirmed that the owner of this property cut down trees and mowed land in a wetlands resource area and buffer zone without a permit. This property is located in Needham as well as on land that the property owner thought was his property in Needham, but, has subsequent to a survey, been determined to have been on Wellesley conservation and water works land owned by the Town and located in Needham. While the Needham Conservation Commission has wetlands jurisdiction over this land in Needham and is proceeding with review of a Notice of Intent that includes a remediation plan, the NRC and Board of Public Works will need to review and approve a remediation plan for the Wellesley-owned land. The NRC reviewed a letter dated September 24, 2014 from the property owner's wetlands consultant, John Rockwood from EcoTec, regarding a proposal for wood chip removal, seeding, and October meadow brush cutting. Ms. Bowser reviewed with the NRC the existing conditions plan submitted by the consultant and the board discussed the proposed encroachment correction and remediation activities.

After a motion was made and seconded, the NRC voted 5-0 to approve the wood chip removal and seeding and the meadow brush-cutting (mowing) to the limit of mowing shown on the existing conditions site plan for 62 Brookside Road as detailed in the September 24, 2014 letter from the property owner's wetlands consultant, John Rockwood. These activities are proposed to occur in early October following authorization by the NRC.

After a motion was made and seconded, the NRC voted 5-0 to allow EcoTec to prepare a plan at no expense to the NRC for activities proposed on the Town of Wellesley land in Needham which will include, but not be limited to periodic meadow mowing to control invasives, invasive species removal (oriental bittersweet and honeysuckle), mitigation plantings with native sapling and shrub species, repositioning of larger pine logs that remain on the property, the removal and disposal of metal debris, and the placement of bird boxes for one or more selected species. The plan would be subject to review and sign-off by the NRC and the Wellesley DPW (as land owners) and be subject to review and approval under an Order of Conditions by the Needham Conservation Commission.

Ms. Bowser will continue to work with the DPW, EcoTec, and the Needham Conservation Commission on a remediation plan and will keep the NRC updated on this matter.

Update 135 Great Plain Avenue Open Space Parcel

Ms. Bowser reported that the owner of this 12 acre parcel accepted an offer to purchase this property from Northland Development Corp. She confirmed that Northland is aware of the NRC's interest in protecting

the back portion of this parcel with an easement or restriction (not outright acquisition) that would connect NRC conservation land with the Sudbury Aqueduct, which could be negotiated with the new owner with leverage under the Natural Resources Protection Development Bylaw and that they will be contacting the NRC shortly to further discuss the property. The NRC and members and staff of other interested Town boards conducted a site visit to the property on September 12, 2014. The site contains Fuller Brook as well as a man-made pond and associated wetlands, wetland resources areas and floodplain. Based on a recent preliminary wetland delineation performed in July 2014, which has not been reviewed or approved by the Wetlands Protection Committee, the site contains approximately 1.37± acres of wetland and 10.68± acres wetland resource areas and floodplain. The site abuts the Sudbury Aqueduct to the south, Town of Wellesley Natural Resources conservation land to the north. Ms. Bowser will keep the NRC updated on the status of this property.

Approval of Invasives Removal Plan on NRC Land Adjacent to 200 Oakland Street

Ms. Bowser reviewed with the NRC the proposed plan for the removal of Oriental Bittersweet (hand-cutting of stems only) on NRC land abutting 200 Oakland Street. The NRC approved a waiver under its IPM Policy allowing for a one-time application of Tordon RTU directly on the cut stems and compliance with a long-term management plan in perpetuity with annual reports to be submitted to the NRC. Please include these requirements in the OOC for this project, which is being proposed by the owners of 200 Oakland Street as mitigation under their NOI currently before the WPC. Cricket Vlass has been out to the site and has approved the plan. **After a motion was made and seconded, the NRC voted 5-0 to approve the submitted Invasives Removal Plan on NRC Land Adjacent to 200 Oakland Street.**

Approval of 19 Wingate Rd. Encroachment Correction Replanting Plan

Ms. Bowser reviewed with the Commission the proposed encroachment correction replanting plan at 19 Wingate Road. She stated that during the current wetlands permit review for this property, an encroachment onto the NRC's Boulder Brook Reservation was discovered that is also in a wetland resource area and the owner proposed the attached replanting plan in accordance with the NRC's Encroachment Correction Policy and Procedures. Ms. Bowser, Ms. Helinek and Ms. Vlass conducted a site visit to the property on September 30, 2014 with the property owner Pete Holland to review the proposed plan and Ms. Vlass has approved the plan. She stated that there are existing property bounds on both back corners of the parcel abutting NRC land, so no additional bounds are required. **After a motion was made and seconded, the NRC voted 5-0 to approve the submitted 19 Wingate Road Encroachment Correction Replanting Plan.**

Update on Hunnewell Field Basketball Court Restoration Project

Ms. Bowser updated the NRC on the status of this restoration project and stated that all work has been completed except for the installation of the light poles, which are expected to be completed by mid to late October. Ms. Bowser circulated a photo of the completed courts and stated that the Recreation Commission is planning a grand opening event for the courts and she will notify the NRC once a date has been set.

Fuller Brook Park Preservation Project Construction Phase Update

Ms. Bowser provided a brief update on the status of the project and stated that tree removal work has been completed in the segment of the park between Maugus Ave. and Paine Street and that work on constructing the bioretention systems in this segment will begin shortly. Pete Jackson has accepted the position of Project Manager and will begin Oct. 15th. The DPW Engineering staff is working on a new website for the project's construction phase and hope to have it operational by Oct. 15th. Ms. Bowser will keep the NRC updated on the status of the project.

Update on Wetlands Protection Committee Vacancy

Ms. Bowser indicated that she has been in contact with two potential replacements for the Wetlands Protection Committee (WPC) seat vacated due to the resignation of Jay Hammerness, who is moving out of Town. Ms. Bowser will work with the WPC and NRC to coordinate the recruitment process.

Update on Morses Pond Comprehensive Management Program

Ms. Bowser stated that she had circulated an update on the program from Dr. Ken Wagner, the Morses Pond Manager, indicating that the Phosphorus Inactivation System work has been concluded for the season and that pond conditions remain very positive and water clarity remains high. She stated that the system has worked well and appears largely responsible for the positive conditions in the pond both in terms of high water clarity and reduced algae counts. She stated that phosphorus levels in the south basin have been substantially below threshold and that the new chemical being used, poly/aluminum chloride, has been very effective and has done an excellent job at binding with the phosphorus coming in from the upper watershed. Ms. Bowser will keep the NRC updated on the status of the program.

Update on Perrin Park New Playground Equipment

Ms. Bowser stated that the new Perrin Park playground equipment has been installed and she circulated a photo of the new equipment and stated that feedback from the neighborhood has been extremely positive.

Potential Eagle Scout Project – Disc Golf Course in Hunnewell Athletic Field Complex

Ms. Bowser stated that she was recently contacted by Michael Mahr, a member of Boy Scout Troop 182, who would like to create a Disc Golf course in Wellesley as his Eagle Scout project. He would like to submit a proposal for the NRC's consideration for a Disc Golf Course in the Memorial Grove area in the Hunnewell Athletic Field Complex. After discussion, it was the sense of the NRC that they did not feel that a Disc Golf Course is an appropriate recreational use for this area or any other NRC land. The NRC suggested an alternate project involving the restoration of the Centennial Reservation Guided Trail markers. Ms. Bowser will follow-up with Mr. Mahr and this suggestion.

Review of NRC September 9, 2014, July 30, 2014 NRC Executive Session Meeting Minutes and September 12, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Ms. Olney had a number of edits to the minutes and the board asked her to revise the minutes and distribute her revisions for their review and vote at a subsequent meeting. **After a motion was made and seconded, the NRC voted 5-0 to approve the September 12, 2014 and the July 30, 2014 Executive Session Meeting Minutes.**

Adjournment

After a motion was made and seconded, the NRC voted 5-0 to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Hartke Bowser

Janet Hartke Bowser, NRC Director

